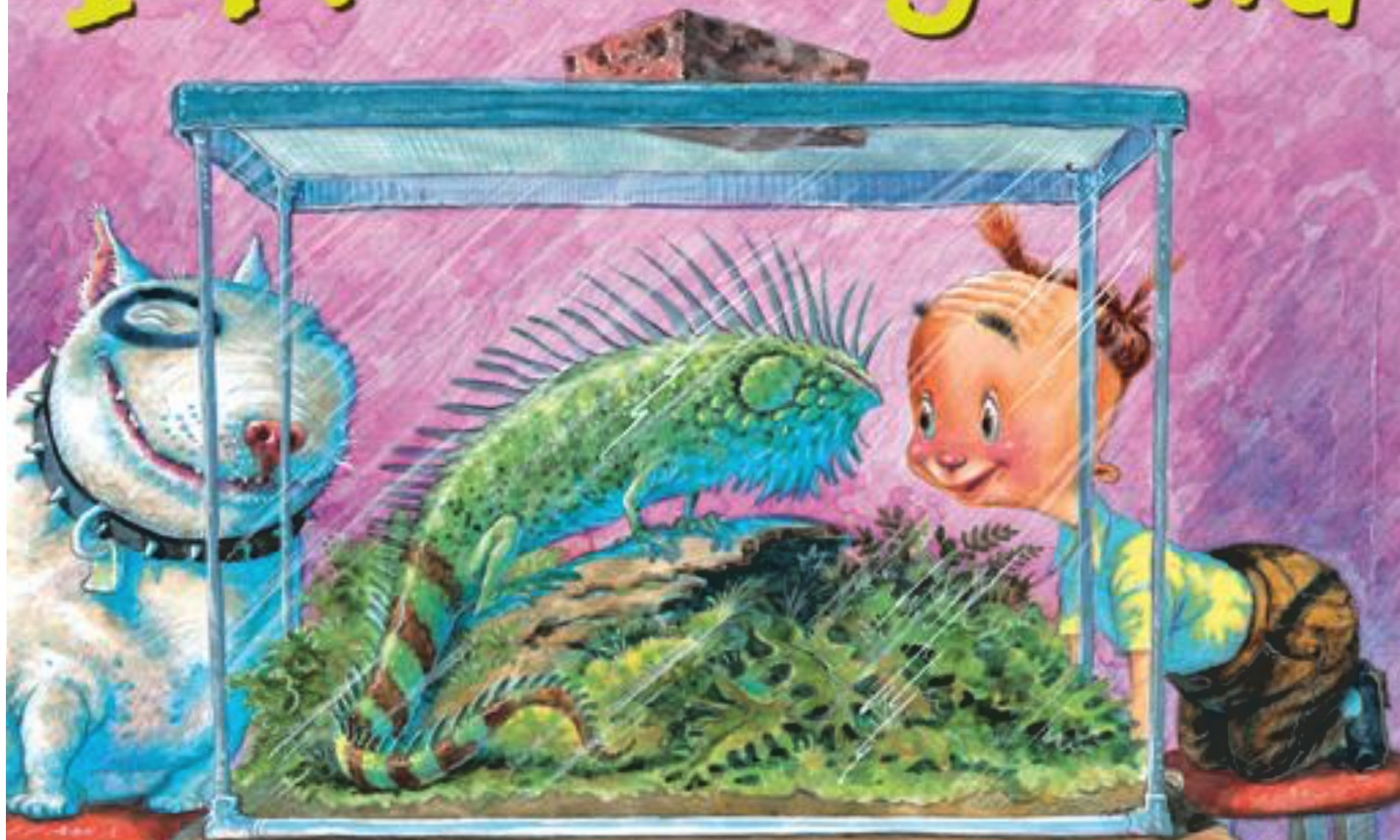


I Wanna Iguana



KAREN KAUFMAN ORLOFF • DAVID CATROW

I Wanna Iguana

KAREN KAUFMAN ORLOFF • ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID CATROW



G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS • NEW YORK

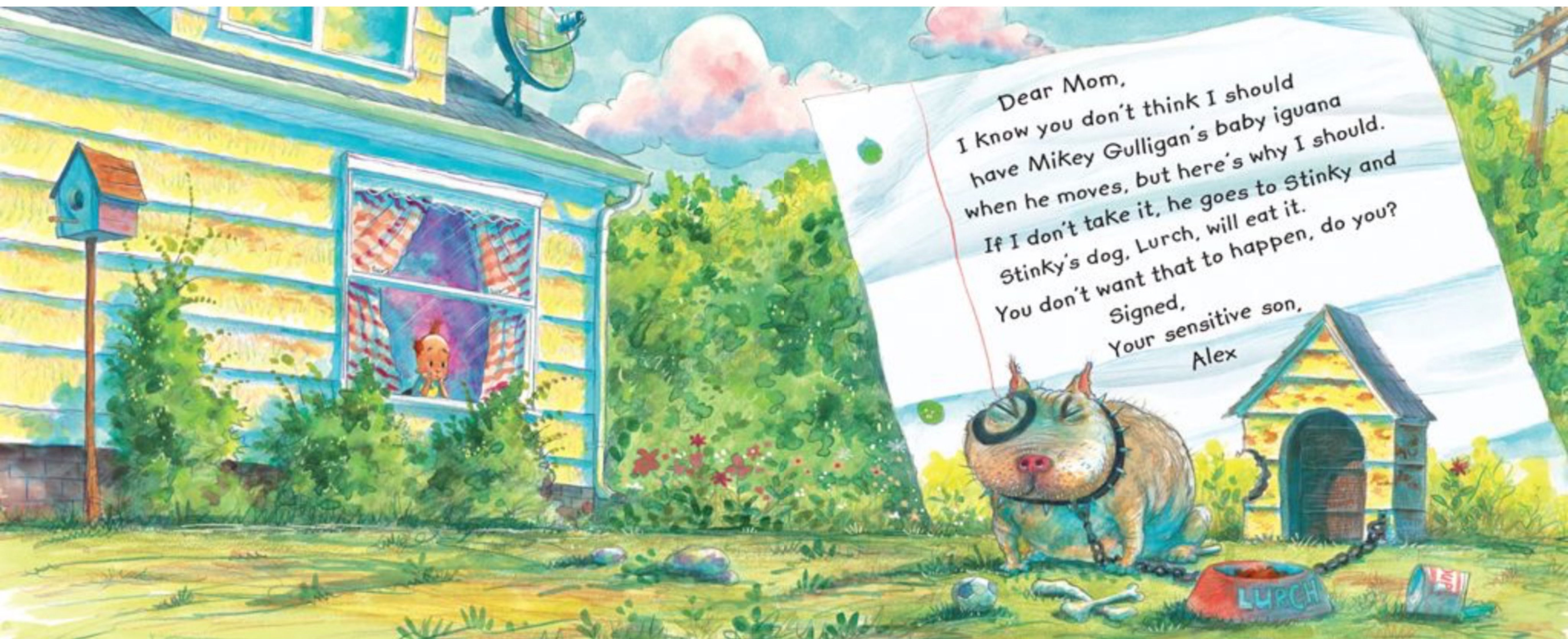


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 Summary: Alex and his mother write notes back and forth in which Alex tries to persuade her to let him have a baby iguana for a pet.
 I. Iguanas as pets—Fiction. 2. Pets—Fiction. 3. Letters—Fiction. 4. Mothers and sons—Fiction. I. Catrow, David, ill.
 II. Title. PZ7.04332 Iw 2004 [E]—dc22 2004004936
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To Max and Emily
 for their inspiration,
 to Brad for his support,
 and to all my writer friends
 for making me work harder. —K.K.O.

To Mr. Alexander—
 you taught me discipline
 and how to be an artist. —D.C.



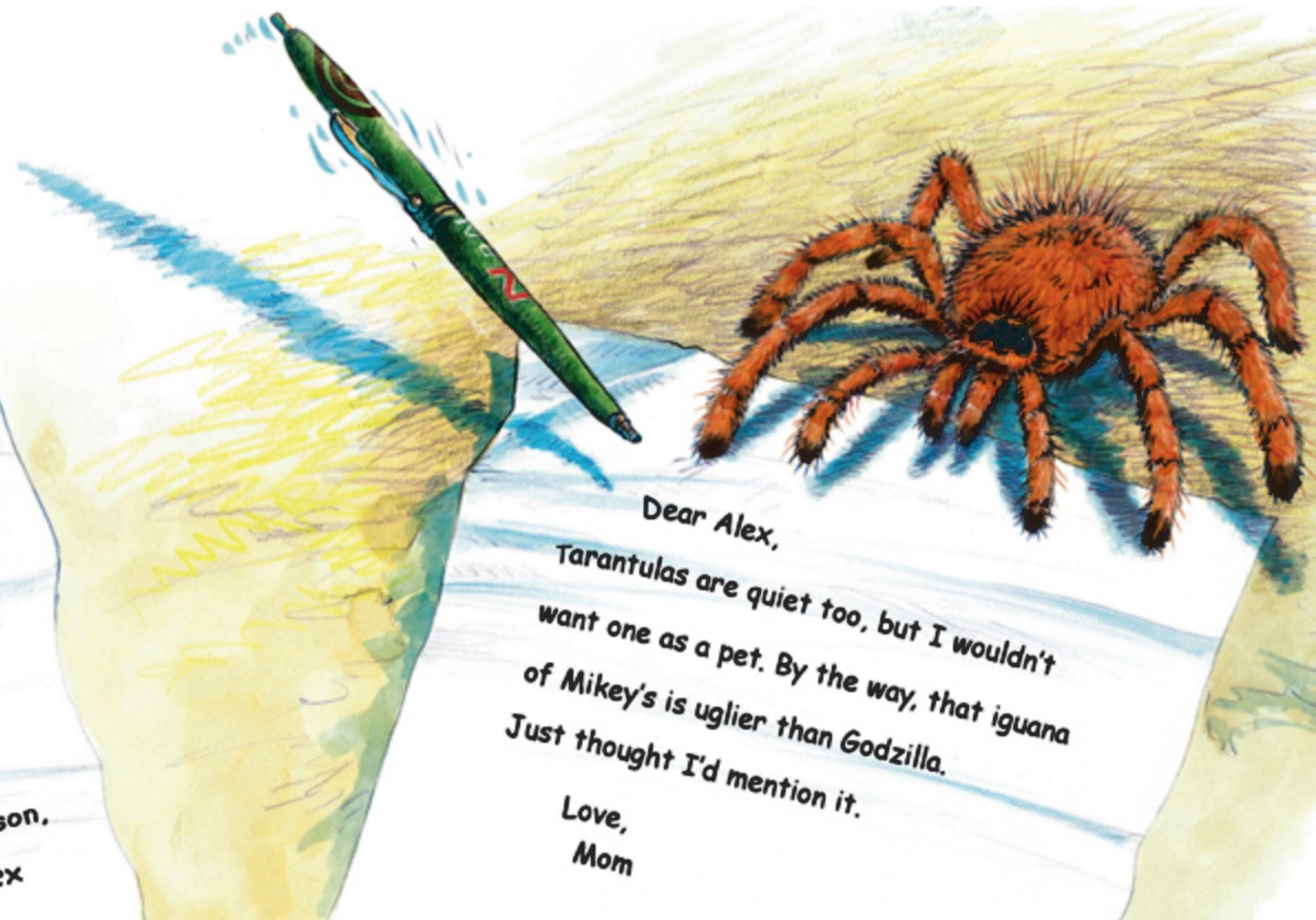


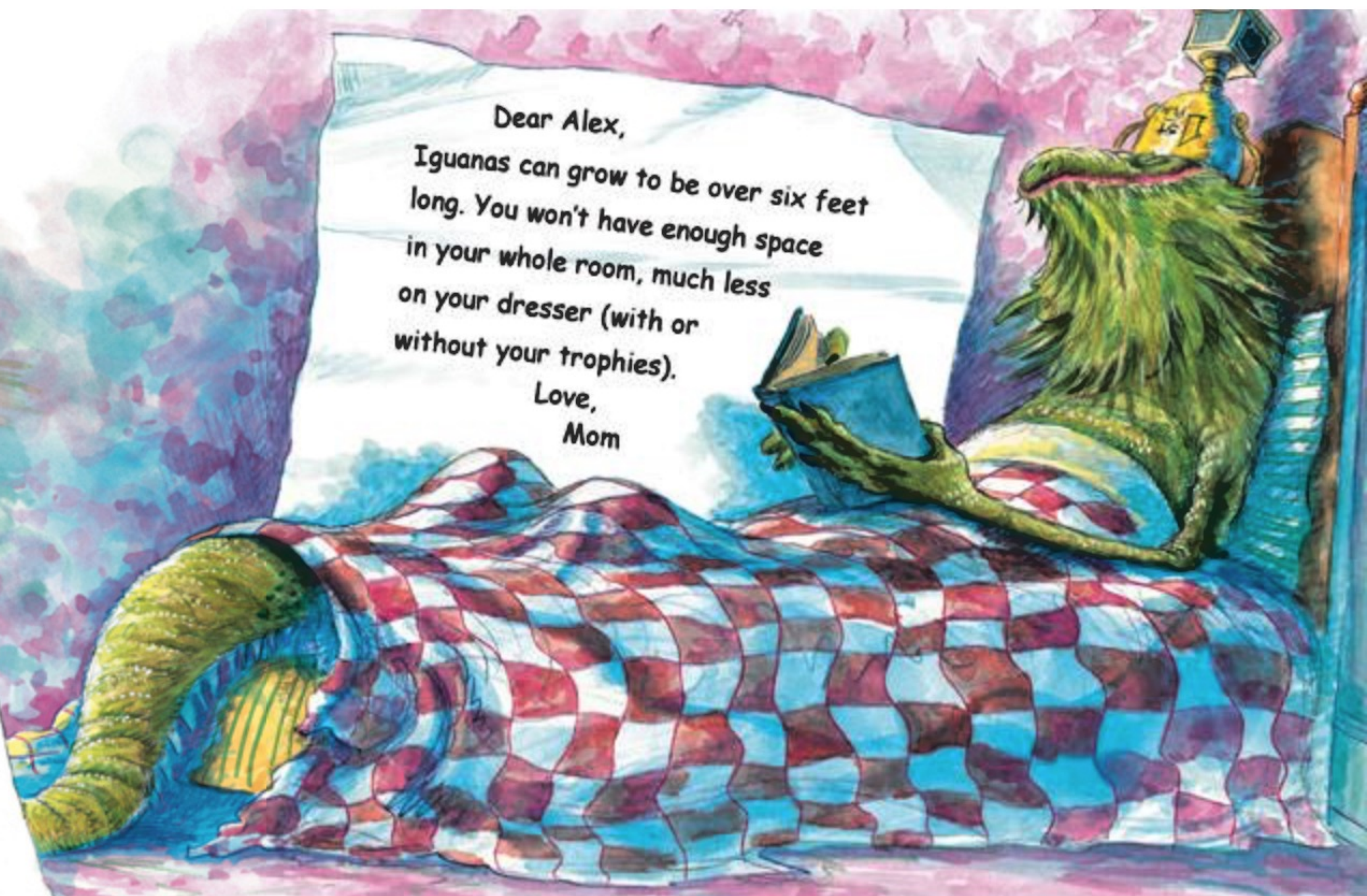
Dear Mom,
I know you don't think I should
have Mikey Gulligan's baby iguana
when he moves, but here's why I should.
If I don't take it, he goes to Stinky and
Stinky's dog, Lurch, will eat it.
You don't want that to happen, do you?
Signed,
Your sensitive son,
Alex

Dear Alex,
I'm glad you're so compassionate,
but I doubt that Stinky's mother
will let Lurch get into
the iguana's cage.
Nice try, though.

Love,
Mom









Dear Mom,
It takes 15 years for an iguana to
get that big. Mikey told me. I'll be
married by then and probably
living in my own house.

Love,
Your smart and mature kid, Alex

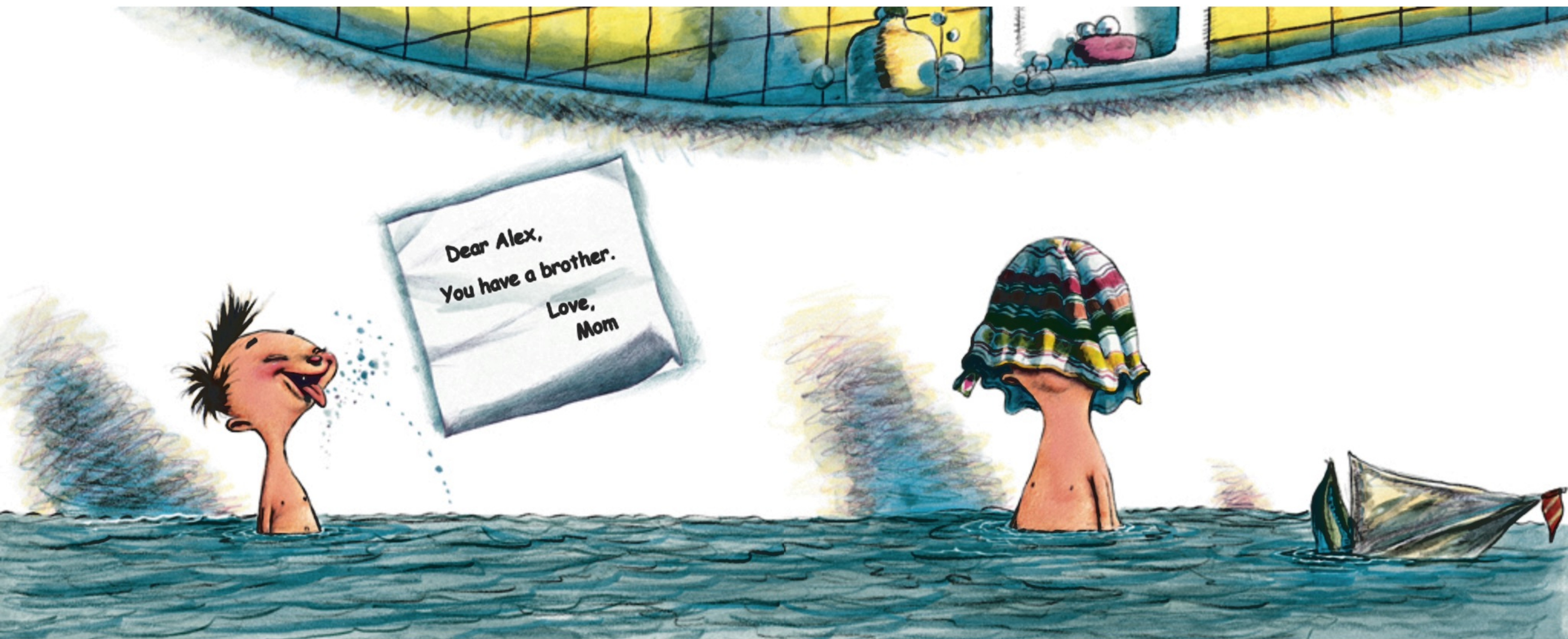


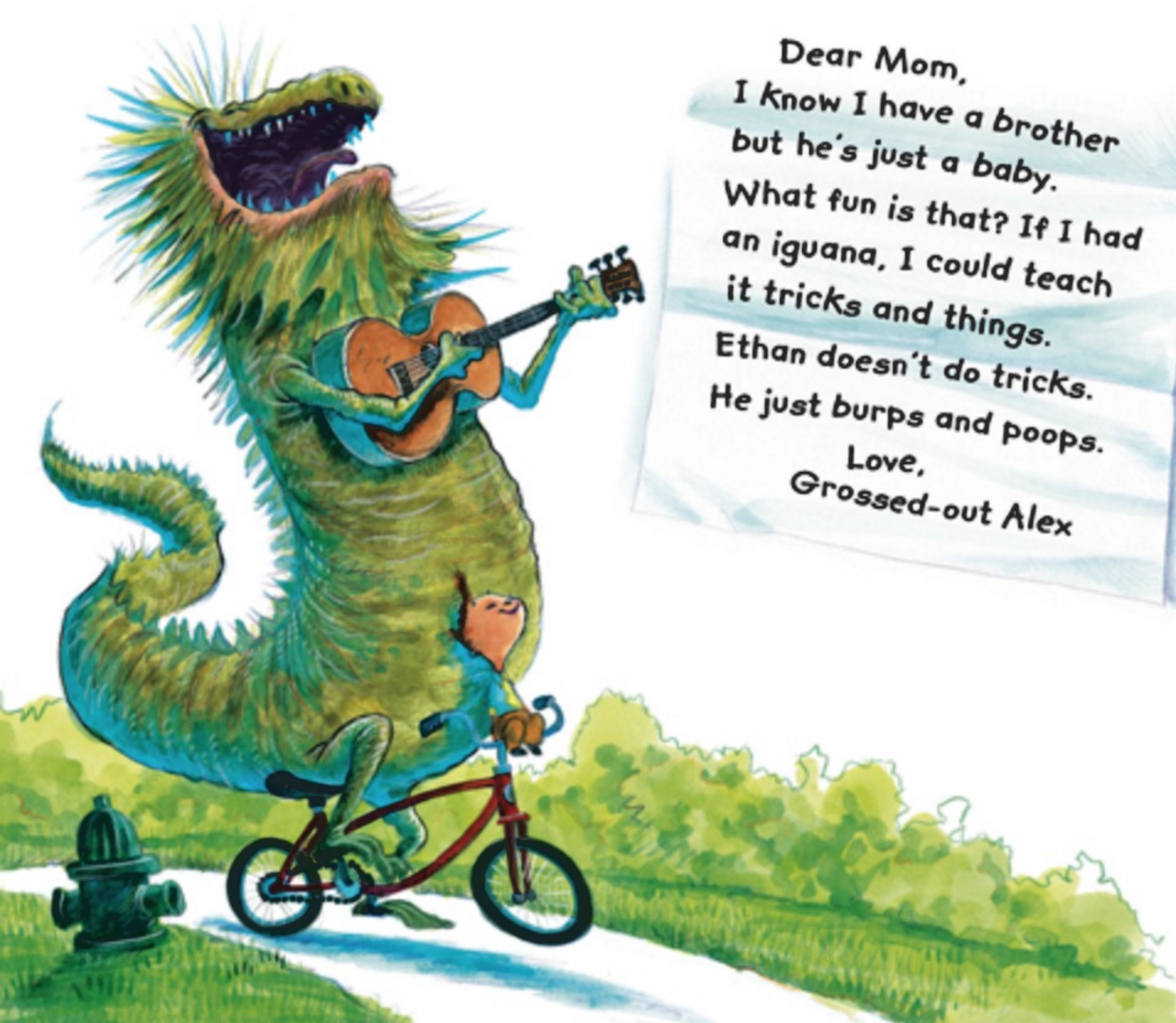
Dear Alex,
How are you going to get
a girl to marry you when
you own a six-foot-long
reptile?
Love,
Your concerned mother




Dear Mom,
Forget the girl.
I need a new friend now!

This iguana can be the brother I've always wanted.
Love,
Your lonely child, Alex

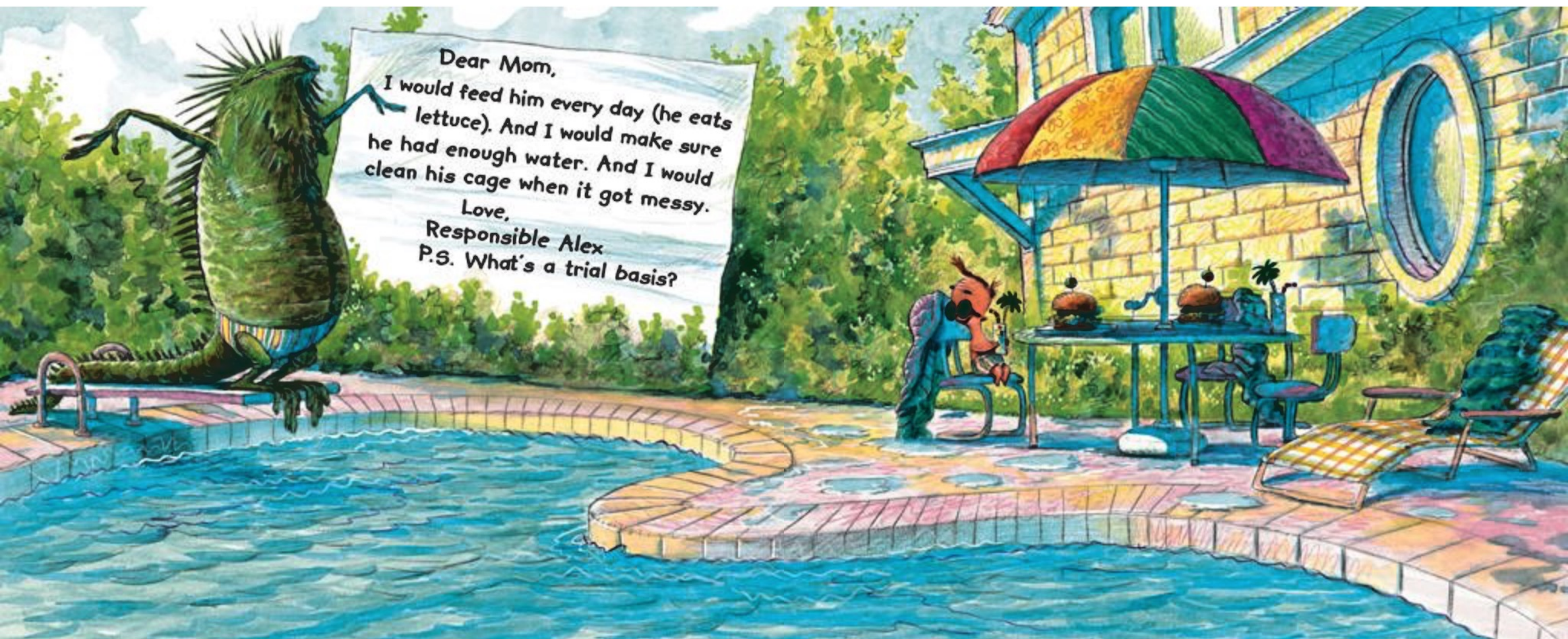






Dear Mom,
If I knew the fish was going to
jump into the spaghetti sauce,
I never would have taken
the cover off the jar!
Love,
Your son who has
learned his lesson
P.S. Iguanas don't like spaghetti.

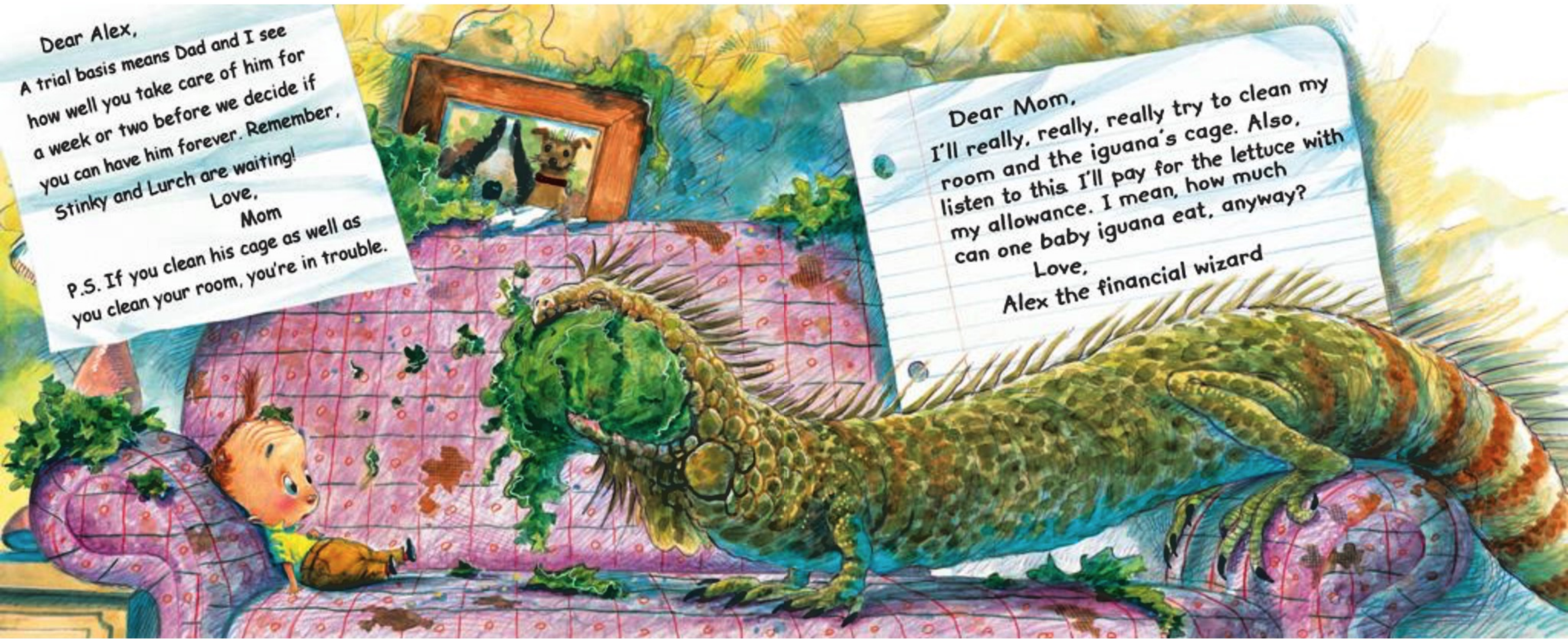
Dear Alex,
Let's say I let you have
the iguana on a trial basis.
What exactly would you do
to take care of it?
Love,
Mom



Dear Mom,
I would feed him every day (he eats
lettuce). And I would make sure
he had enough water. And I would
clean his cage when it got messy.
Love,
Responsible Alex
P.S. What's a trial basis?

Dear Alex,
A trial basis means Dad and I see
how well you take care of him for
a week or two before we decide if
you can have him forever. Remember,
Stinky and Lurch are waiting!
Love,
Mom
P.S. If you clean his cage as well as
you clean your room, you're in trouble.

Dear Mom,
I'll really, really, really try to clean my
room and the iguana's cage. Also,
listen to this I'll pay for the lettuce with
my allowance. I mean, how much
can one baby iguana eat, anyway?
Love,
Alex the financial wizard



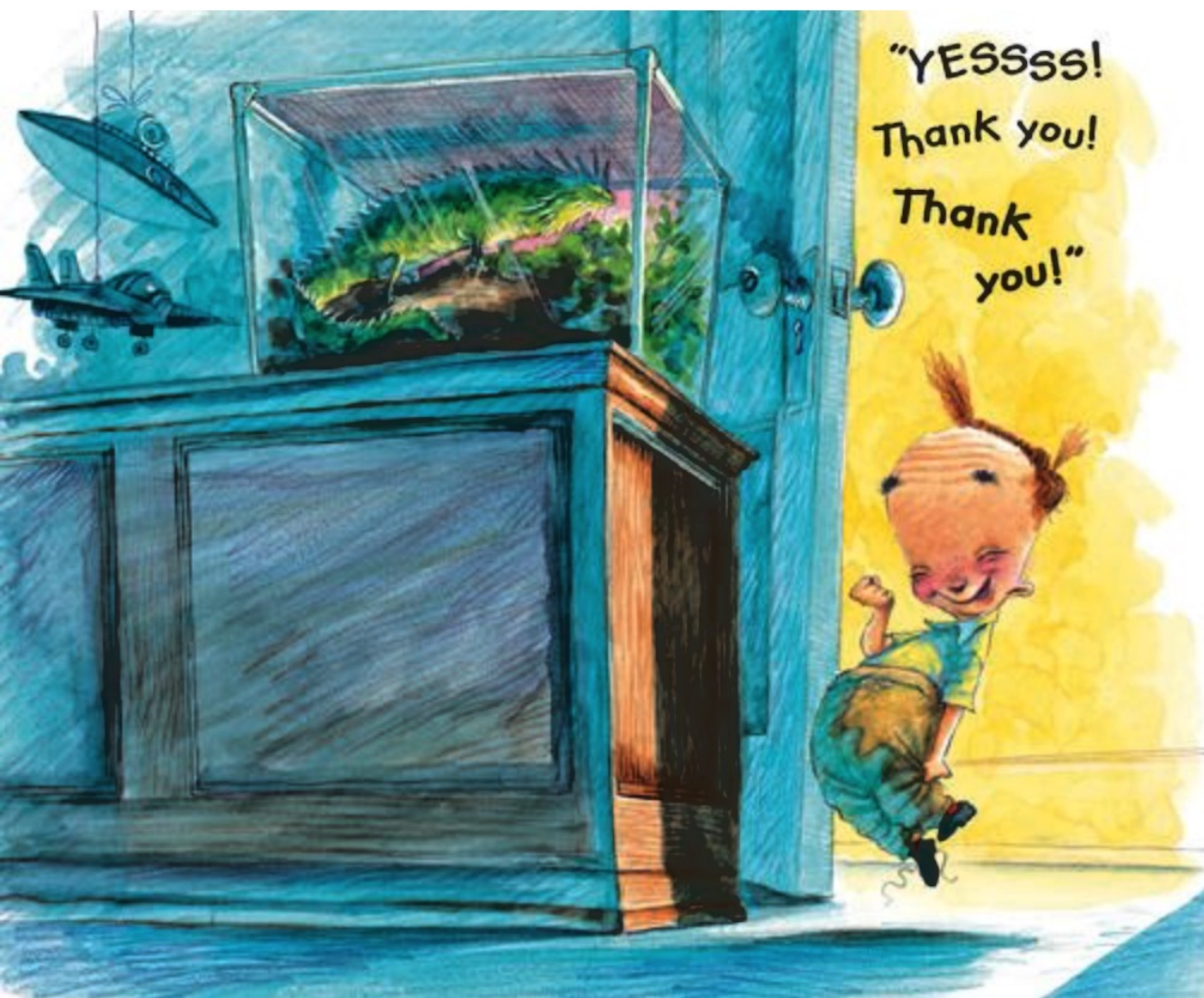
"Are you sure you want to do this, Alex?"

**"Yes, Mom!
I wanna iguana. . . .
Please!"**



Dear Alex,
Look on your dresser.
Love,
Mom





"YESSSS!
Thank you!
Thank
you!"

